



**Executive Officer's Statement
Victim Compensation and
Government Claims Board
August 18, 2005**



Employees Honored at the Board's 40th Anniversary Celebration

On July 21, the Board commemorated the 40th anniversary of the Victim Compensation Program at a special ceremony at the Tsakopoulos Library Galleria in Sacramento. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger proclaimed July 21, 2005 as "Victim Compensation Program Day in California" and the Board received the American flag that flew over the Capitol in honor of the state's observance of this significant milestone.

The theme of the event was, "Honoring the work we do and those who make it happen." The Honorable Lois Haight, Superior Court Judge in Contra Costa County and Chair of the 1982 President's Task Force on Victims of Crime, gave the inspiring keynote address. Board Chair, Fred Aguiar graciously welcomed the distinguished guests at the event. Michael Ramos, San Bernardino County Attorney and Board member, acted as master of ceremonies, and Windie Scott, representing State Controller and Board Member, Steve Westly, read a special message of congratulations from John Gillis, Director of the Federal Office for Victims of Crime.

Other highlights of the event included the premier of a commemorative DVD spanning the Board's 40-year history, significant accomplishments and worldwide events. The program concluded with refreshments and an inspiring vocal performance by Board employee June Hawkins-Brown.

Orange County Takes Restitution a Step Further

A new project at the Orange County District Attorney's Office will transport inmates back to court from the institution to restitution hearings. Acknowledging the importance of the rights of victims and the imposition of restitution orders, Assistant District Attorney Bob Jones, along with Restitution Specialists Richard Ortega and Luis Ramirez have embarked on a Restitution Modification Project that will transport approximately 60 inmates back to court, if necessary, to have restitution orders modified and settled.

The Deputy District Attorneys who handled past cases where no restitution was ordered or no amount was imposed will be handling the modification cases. The project will serve as a training tool on restitution law and procedures and increase revenue for the county and state. The project will identify cases in which no restitution was ordered or no amount was imposed and the Deputy District Attorneys who originally handled the cases will go back to court to obtain restitution for crime victims. Orange County hopes to ensure that every offender pays restitution in full whenever possible.

Board Updates

NOVA Conference

The Board's Executive Officer and Chief Deputy Executive Officer attended the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) 31st Annual North American Victim Assistance Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. Victim assistance and disaster professionals, survivors, crisis intervention and support service professionals, and victims' allies in many professions including justice, health and mental health from

around the world attended the week long conference, August 7-12, 2005. NOVA was founded in 1975 and is the oldest national group of its kind.

Board Restitution Training is STC Certified

For the first time the Board's restitution training course on restitution law and responsibilities for probation officers has been certified for four hours credit toward the annual training required of probation officers. The Restitution staff travel to the counties to conduct the free training and submit the certification to the Corrections Standards Authority for each participant.

On August 4, the Restitution staff will present training for 60 probation officers through the Solano County Probation Department in Fairfield.

National Traumatic Stress Network Presentation

The national co-director of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) Dr. Bob Pynoos, and his colleague Dr. Ramesh Raghavan, made a presentation to the Board's executive staff on July 26, 2005. The NCTSN is a coalition formed by treatment centers throughout the United States that have come together to improve the quality, effectiveness, provision, and availability of therapy for traumatized children and adolescents. The focus of the presentation was on the structure and goals of the NCTSN and included a proposal to train therapists at UCLA in trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy.